

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05641 01 OF 02 201444Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 DOE-15
SOE-02 ACDA-12 OMB-01 NRC-05 /101 W
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R 191956Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4672
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
COMSIXTHFLT NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 05641

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR, MNUC, SP, US
SUBJECT: NPW VISITS TO SPAIN

REF: STATE 121425 (DTG 121530Z MAY 78)

1. WE HAVE REQUESTED SPANISH GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR THE
USS NIMITZ VISIT TO ROTA JULY 7-10 AND HAVE NO REASON TO
EXPECT DIFFICULTIES WITH THAT OR WITH THE ONE-DAY IN AND
OUT VISIT BY THE USS SHARK ON JULY 2.

2. THE FREQUENCY OF NPW VISITS AND LEAD TIME FOR REQUESTS
HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BY GOS OFFICIALS
OVER THE PAST YEAR. WE HAVE ENDED DP WITH A GENERAL
REQUIREMENT FOR 60-DAYS LEAD TIME AND ROUGHLY TWO-MONTHS
BETWEEN VISITS, BUT WITH NO SPECIFIC LIMIT ON THE NUMBER
OF SHIPS PARTICIPATING IN EACH VISIT. THE SPANISH NAVY
HAS BEEN INCLINED TO BE A BIT MORE LIBERAL, HAVING STATED
THAT A MINIMUM PERIOD OF ONE MONTH BETWEEN VISITS TO ROTA
WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. IN MAY 1977, WHEN PALMA WAS BEING
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PAGE 02 MADRID 05641 01 OF 02 201444Z

EVALUATED AS AN NPW PORT, THE SPANISH NAVY CONCLUDED THAT
A MINIMUM PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS BETWEEN VISITS WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE FOR PALMA -- WE ASSUME THIS WOULD HAVE APPLIED
TO ALL COMMERCIAL PORTS -- AND A MINIMUM PERIOD OF ONE
MONTH BETWEEN VISITS TO ROTA AND VISITS TO COMMERCIAL
PORTS. IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR POLITICO-MILITARY
AFFAIRS, IN WHICH THESE MATTERS ARE TREATED, THE SPANISH

HAVE BEEN REASONABLY FLEXIBLE IN APPLYING THESE GUIDELINES.

3. AS FOR THE FUTURE, CHANCES FOR OPENING PALMA OR OTHER MAJOR SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN PORTS SUCH AS BARCELONA, VALENCIA, AND MALAGA FOR NPW VISITS IN THE NEAR FUTURE REMAIN DIM. FACING DIFFICULT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE FALL OR EARLY NEXT YEAR AND WISHING TO AVOID HAVING TO DEAL WITH TREATY-RELATED MATTERS IN THE SPANISH POLITICAL ARENA AT THIS TIME, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE VERY SENSITIVE TO ISSUES WHICH MIGHT ALLOW THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PUBLIC IGNORANCE AND SENSITIVITY ON NUCLEAR QUESTIONS.

4. THE BRIGHTEST PROSPECT WITH RESPECT TO MEDITERRANEAN PORTS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN DURING ALL OF OUR MANY EFFORTS WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAS INVOLVED CARTAGENA, A RELATIVELY SMALL PORT WITH A LARGE SPANISH NAVY PRESENCE AND A SMALL POPULATION OF TOURISTS. IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE HERE, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT EVEN TO OBTAIN ACCESS THERE. HOWEVER, IT IS WORTH THE EFFORT, FOR CARTAGENA COULD, IN ADDITION TO ITS OBVIOUS UTILITY FOR VISITS BY SMALLER NPW'S, HAVE IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATIVE VALUE IN REASSURING SPANISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT NPW VISITS TO LARGER PORTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN NEED NOT INVOLVE HIGH POLITICAL RISK. THERE IS A MAJOR TOURIST COMPLEX WITHIN EASY REACH OF CARTAGENA.
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PAGE 03 MADRID 05641 01 OF 02 201444Z

5. WE AGREE THAT IT IS TOO LATE TO PREPARE A REQUEST TO THE GOS FOR A CGN VISIT TO CARTAGENA 12-16 JUNE. HOWEVER, TO PLACE OURSELVES IN THE BEST POSITION FOR GOS APPROVAL OF A CVN VISIT TO A MAJOR MEDITERRANEAN PORT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME, WE RECOMMEND REQUESTING AN SSN VISIT TO CARTAGENA IN SEPTEMBER 1978 (SINCE NO SURFACE NPW IS AVAILABLE THIS FALL), FOLLOWED BY A SECOND SSN VISIT TO A SPANISH PORT IN NOVEMBER 1978, AND BY THE EISENHOWER TURNOVER VISIT TO ROTA IN JANUARY 1979. IN THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS, WE COULD THEN TRY FOR A CGN VISIT TO PALMA IN MARCH 1979 AND A CVN VISIT TO PALMA (OR ANOTHER MEDITERRANEAN PORT) IN MAY 1979, SHOULD THE POLITICAL CLIMATE HAVE BECOME MORE PROPITIOUS BY THEN.

6. WE SUGGEST THAT TO OPTIMIZE THE CHANCE FOR APPROVAL FOR A CARTAGENA VISIT, THE REQUEST SHOULD NOT OVERLAP A REQUEST FOR A VISIT TO ROTA AND THE SSN SHOULD ENTER PORT AT THE COMPLETION OF AN EXERCISE INVOLVING SPANISH NAVY UNITS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS GREATER POLITICAL SENSITIVITY ATTACHED HERE TO VISITS BY NUCLEAR SUBS TO COMMERCIAL PORTS THAN IS THE CASE WITH SURFACE SHIPS, THERE WOULD BE

VERY STRONG SUPPORT BY THE SPANISH NAVY IN THE CASE OF
CARTAGENA BECAUSE THEIR SUBMARINE SCHOOL IS LOCATED THERE
AND THEY WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH A
RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR SUBMARINERS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 05641

7. SHOULD SPAIN'S FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND DEFENSE
MINISTER GUTIERREZ MELLADO VISIT WASHINGTON THIS SUMMER
TO DISCUSS TREATY MATTERS, THE MATTER OF NPW VISITS,
FIRST TO CARTAGENA AND THEN TO LARGER MEDITERRANEAN PORTS,
COULD APPROPRIATELY BE RAISED, PARTICULARLY IF WE ARE IN
A POSITION TO OFFER SATISFACTION ON ISSUES OF PARTICULAR
CONCERN TO HIM.

8. NO FURTHER PRE-VISIT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SURVEYS
HAVE BEEN COMPLETED SINCE THOSE AT PALMA, WHEN THE
SPANISH NAVY HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A POSITIVE GOS
DECISION ON A PALMA VISIT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING. THE
SPANISH NAVY IS PREPARED TO CONDUCT FURTHER PORT SURVEYS
AFTER A REQUEST IS SUBMITTED AND THERE IS SOME GOS
INDICATION OF APPROVAL. IN THE CASE OF CARTAGENA, WE HAVE
ASSURANCES FROM THE SPANISH NAVY THAT THE SURVEY COULD BE
ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE NORMAL 60-DAY LEAD TIME. EATON

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